



20th Eng. Bn. spouse named Fort Hood's Rising Star

By Sgt. Stephanie Bryant, Sentinel Staff

Jill Charles, wife of Staff Sgt. Robert Charles of the 20th Engineer Battalion, was named Fort Hood's 2008 Operation Rising Star after she won the finals competition Friday at Phantom Warrior Center.

For winning first prize in the competition, Charles took home a \$500 check and will be going to the nationals to compete in the Armywide competition for the chance to win the Ultimate Recording Music Experience and create her own demo CD.

Charles said it was her husband Robert who first informed her of the competition. After making it to the final round, Charles said she didn't expect to take first place.

"I'll be honest, I was praying I would win," she laughed. "But I didn't think I was going to win."

The judges did not have the final say in the competition. Upon arrival, audience members were given blank ballots and asked to vote for their favorite rising star.

The 20th Eng. Bn. made up a good chunk of the audience. Charles, who said she has been singing all her life, was overwhelmed by the support from her husband and his unit, she said.

"He was amazing from the beginning," she said. "The fact that they are all here to support me means more than winning."

The 20th Eng. Bn. was not the only unit representing itself at the competition.

Company B, Division Special Troops Battalion, 1st Cavalry Division, had the most attendees for the event overall. For their support to the competition, Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers awarded Co. B a \$300 check toward their unit funds.

The second and third place finalists were Chelsea Anderson, Family member, and Spc. Katrina Goss, Co. B, DSTB, 1st Cav. Div., respectively.